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New retailer announced after Gateway verdict

An artist's impression of how the Banbury Gateway shopping park could look

TOWN TO GET A PRIMARK

PRIMARK looks set to come to the proposed Banbury Gateway centre, giving shoppers a low-cost fashion flagship store.

Cherwell District Council gave the green light for changes to the development's plans, including a huge new Primark – which will be the chain's second Oxfordshire store.

Three units are now set to be amalgamated into one large space for the shop, which sells cheap clothing, jewellery, makeup, and homeware.

Other changes include getting rid of one restaurant space, meaning there will be two under a canopy, rearranging floor space between some of the smaller units, and getting rid of 32 car parking spaces.

The new centre will replace the Wildmere Industrial Estate, near Junction 11 of the M40.

It will be transformed into a retail park with 14 shops and two restaurants, creating an estimated 750 jobs.

The development had been granted planning permission from the council in December 2012, with amendments approved in May and October 2013.

Not everyone was happy with the plans, however.

The owners of Castle Quay and Banbury Cross Retail Park sought a judicial review to have the LXB Properties scheme thrown out.

Scottish Widows – which owns Castle Quay – and Aegon UK Property Fund Ltd – which owns Banbury Cross – brought the appeal.

The court judgment said there were concerns that business would be "sucked away from the town centre".

The High Court agreed with the district council in December last year, and last week the challengers had their appeal bid refused by the Court of Appeal in London.

Cherwell's planning chief, Michael Gibbard, said: "Banbury Gateway is set to benefit the town as a whole.

"With the addition of another flagship store to the development and no change in the scheme's footprint, Banbury Gateway will create hundreds of new employment opportunities for residents."

Banbury MP Sir Tony Baldry said: "This is good news. It's a vote of confidence from Primark in Banbury as a retail location.

"The Banbury Gateway will very much be a regional retail hub for people on the M40."

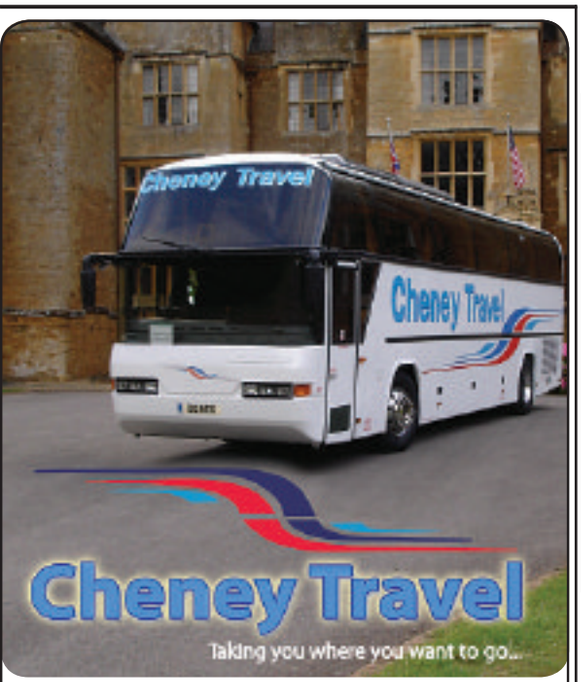
Not all residents are thrilled by the scheme. Katherine Goode, a mother-of-three from Banbury, said: "It doesn't really bother me, I'd probably never shop there even if it was on my doorstep. It's not my kind of shop."

Colin Challenger, from Bloxham, said: "I think it's an extremely bad idea.

"Banbury's shops have already been decimated by the centres outside the town. It's desperate for local businesses. There's clothing made locally and this would kill it."

The barrister added: "Banbury is traditionally a market town. It's important to people who are still keeping that alive."

By Alex Wynick



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Holocaust survivor tells of war-time horrors

A HOLOCAUST survivor has been speaking to pupils about tolerance and understanding.

Zigy Shiper visited Sibford School, near Banbury, on Friday and spoke to pupils across Years Six to 13.

The 84-year-old told students: "We want young people to know what happened because of racism, prejudice and, of course, hatred.

"People say to me 'how do I remember?' But the question should be, 'how can I forget?' I can't forget when most members of my family and many millions of other people were slaughtered – all for no reason at all."

Mr Shiper, who was incarcerated in a number of camps, including Auschwitz-Birkenau, described how starvation totally de-humanised the inhabitants.

He said: "Pain goes away. But hunger never does. If you're starving you do things you cannot imagine. I was getting up in the morning and stepping over dead bodies and it didn't mean a thing. I was completely de-humanised.

"I'm always asked about those who were gassed. But many more people were dying every day. So many people. They were shot and, of course, there was starvation and disease.

"Even after the war ended, people were dying. The British Army brought in tins of meat, tins of fruit, bars of chocolate and biscuits but it was the worse thing they could do. We had been starving for months. People were dying from over-eating."

Zigy Shiper, pictured with Sibford pupils Francesca Holland, Alex Dillon, Megan Penney and Conor Taylor

InBRIEF

Death: Third man charged

A THIRD man has been charged in connection with the death of 17-year-old Connor Tremble. Bradley Jones, 21, was charged with perverting the course of justice on Friday. Connor, 17, died at John Radcliffe Hospital last month, two days after he was stabbed at his home in Fairacres Road, Iffley Fields, Oxford. Jones, of New Road, Bledington, has been released on bail to appear at Oxford Magistrates' Court on April 14. William Blencowe, 20, of Oxford Road, Banbury, has been charged with Connor's murder and Grant Clemens, 23, of Stockwells, Moreton-in-Marsh, has been accused of assisting an offender. Both have been remanded in custody.

Reservoir death

A MAN died on Tuesday morning after falling into the water at Clattercote Reservoir near Banbury. Police and paramedics were called to the scene in Claydon at 10.25am. Police spokesman Chris Kearney said: "The man was unresponsive and pronounced dead at the scene." The death is not being treated as suspicious by police. The man was from the Banbury area but police could not say how old he was.

Police vote

NOMINATIONS are now open for Thames Valley Police's local policing awards. Categories for the Community Policing Awards include best community police officer, PCSO, volunteer and Special Constable. To nominate, visit thamesvalley.police.uk/communityawards, email communitypolicingawards@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk, or pick up a form at a police station before May 15.

Fewer jobless

THE number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in the county has fallen, latest official figures have revealed. A total of 4,627 people were claiming the benefit in February, down 135 on the previous month according to the Office for National Statistics. There are now 2,598 fewer people signing on the dole than at the same time last year and the figure remains at its lowest since October 2008. Nationally, the number claiming Jobseeker's Allowance fell by 34,600 to 1.17m, the 16th consecutive monthly reduction. The total number of people unemployed including those not claiming benefits fell by 63,000 in the quarter to January to 2.33m, a rate of 7.2 per cent.

'We don't want building without a police footprint'

Police call for funding from developers

By Sam McGregor

POLICE say they will actively pursue developer funding to pay for extra policing in North Oxfordshire as the region expands.

That could help pay for more neighbourhood officers or buy computer tablets, so officers could file paperwork while on the beat.

With up to 10,000 homes planned in the north of the county over the next two decades, police could be looking to glean almost £1m from developers

It comes as the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel was questioned on how the force planned to deal with rapid expansion in Cherwell in the coming years.

Chief Constable Sara Thornton said one problem faced by the force was keeping pace with population growth while facing a shrinking budget. She said: "Where there's quite a lot of new residential properties, we need to be able to pursue funding – maybe for local facilities or for neighbourhood police officers

"We don't want large communities being built without a physical police footprint."

Superintendent Colin Paine said the police force faced a "number of challenges" as the population grew.

He said: "Having a share of developer funding would be tremendously helpful. We would look to maximise contributions from developers towards policing."

He wanted to push "mobile data" and may look for funding to provide officers with tablet computers so they could submit paperwork remotely, instead of having to return to the police station.

The Cherwell and West Oxfordshire commander said officers were already facing issues related to a growing population – with drug dealers travelling to the area from London or the West Midlands.

But he said they had swiftly chased them out of town.

Developer contributions, called a Section 106, fund libraries, new bus services, projects like public art and highway improvements.

Last June, Cherwell District Council was forced into a U-turn after it refused £141,084 for policing at the planned Graven Hill site, near Bicester, so hundreds of thousands of pounds could be spent on public art.

One of the developers who could face a new police "levy" is A2Dominion, which is building the first phase of the 6,000-home eco-town at North West Bicester.

A spokesman said it was in talks with the district and county councils about funding.

She said: "Any requests for funding by the police or others would have to be considered by the district council.

"A2Dominion is committed to ensuring that the necessary and relevant provision is made to meet the needs of the future residents of NW Bicester."

Independent councillor Les Sibley said: "The police need the tools and financial resources to continue to safeguard our community. Developers need to play a financial part in that."

Chief Constable Sara Thornton

Superintendent Colin Paine

InCOURT

LUKASZ OBLUDEK, 32, of Cope Road, Banbury, admitted using threatening or abusive words or behaviour likely to cause harassment at Banbury Cross on February 19, and failing to answer bail at Banbury Magistrates' Court on March 4. Fined £80 and ordered to pay a £20 victims' surcharge and £85 costs.

KIT PENTLOW, 18, of Church Lane, Barford St John, admitted possessing 2.85gm of Phenazepam, a Class-C drug, in Banbury High Street on December 14. Given a 12-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay a £15 victims' surcharge and £50 costs.

ERNEST MURAWSKI, 27, of Castle Street, Banbury, admitted drink-driving on Middleton Road, Banbury, on February 9. Had 86mg of alcohol in 100ml of breath, over the legal limit of 25mg. Also admitted drink-driving on Bloxham Road, Banbury, on February 17. Had 93mg of alcohol in 100ml of breath. Also admitted driving whilst disqualified and without insurance on Ruscote Avenue, Banbury, on February 20. Banned from driving for 48 months and sent to prison for 18 weeks.

GEORGE GEOGHEGAN, 26, of Ruscote Arcade, Longlandes Way, Banbury, admitted stealing a case of lager, sweets and a loaf of bread worth £7.65 from the Swindon and Gloucester Co-op on December 2, 2012, also admitted stealing cider and four packs of sandwiches worth £22.09 from the Swindon and Gloucester Co-op on December 2, 2012, stealing items from the Swindon and Gloucester Co-op on April 26, stealing lager worth £12.50 from the Swindon and Gloucester Co-op on April 27, and stealing sandwiches worth £9.39 from the Swindon and Gloucester Co-op on April 27. Given a 12-month conditional discharge and told to pay £51.63 compensation.

JESSICA TUSTAIN, 21, of no fixed address, admitted stealing two bottles of aftershave worth £130 from Debenhams in Banbury on February 25. Given a 12-month conditional discharge and told to pay a £15 victims' surcharge.

JAROSLAW MILEK, 46, of no fixed address, admitted stealing a pair of trousers worth £20 from British Home Stores in Castle Quay, Banbury, on March 10, and a wallet containing bank cards and money worth £30 in Castle Quay, Banbury, on March 11. Given a 12-month conditional discharge and told to pay a £15 victims' surcharge.

SHANE JEACOCK, 25, of Causeway, Banbury, admitted smashing a window of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, worth £250, on May 26. Fined £250 and ordered to pay £250 compensation, a £25 victims' surcharge and £85 costs.

MAX JONES, 18, of Shenington, admitted assault by beating in Park End Street, Oxford, on February 28. Fined £150 and told to pay £150 compensation, a £20 victims' surcharge, and £85 costs.

JIMOH HASSAN-SULE, 22, of Glyndebourne Gardens, Banbury, was convicted of using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour with intent to cause people to believe that immediate unlawful violence would be used against them in Banbury on August 22. Given an 18-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay £350 costs and a £15 victims' surcharge.

Teenager dies after fall from multi-storey car park

A 14-YEAR-OLD boy has died after falling from a multi-storey car park in Banbury.

The teenager, thought to be a Chipping Norton School pupil, was badly injured after falling from the car park in Bolton Road on Monday morning.

South Central Ambulance Service said it was called to the scene at about 1am.

Spokesman Matt George added: "We sent a rapid response vehicle and an ambulance. We took one male patient with life-threatening injuries to the Horton Hospital.

"He was later transferred to the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford."

A Thames Valley Police spokesman said officers were called to the incident by paramedics at 1.42am. She said the boy was taken to Headington's John Radcliffe Hospital in a life-threatening condition.

It is understood the teenager died at the John Radcliffe Hospital shortly after 4pm on Monday.

Chipping Norton School headteacher Simon Duffy declined to comment.

In 2011, Oxford & Cherwell Valley College student Matthew Measures died after falling from the same car park in the early hours of the morning.

Report into patient's accident finds breaches in procedures

Ward's window plunge verdict

By Oliver Evans

HEALTH bosses have been rapped after a patient fell from a first-floor window at an under-threat OAP mental health ward.

The unidentified patient was able to overcome window restrictors at the Fiennes ward at Banbury's Horton General Hospital, a probe found.

Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust – which plans to close the 17-bed ward – would not give the patient's gender, age or injuries.

The incident happened on July 26 last year when a patient was "able to over-ride the window restrictor and exit from the window" a trust report said.

The Health and Safety Executive investigated the incident and has given the trust an improvement notice.

The trust report said: "The investigation identified a material breach in respect of the adequacy of the window restrictors in place at the time of the incident.

"They were insufficiently robust to withstand forseeable forces applied by an individual determined to open the window."

The HSE – which would not comment – said the trust must review policies and procedures and report back by May 14.

The trust report said: "Since the incident, the window restrictors have been strengthened. Therefore, no further action is required on this issue."

Spokesman Alistair Duncan said it was "a very unfortunate accident which the trust regrets".

He added: "A review of all procedures and policies relating to preventing incidents such as these occurring again is ongoing."

In February, the trust announced it would consult with staff on closing the unit, with patients instead being treated at home or at the 34-bed Fulbrook Centre at Oxford's Churchill Hospital.

It said community teams would work until 8pm, during the week. At weekends staff would work for the first time – from 9am to 5pm.

Fulbrook would be refurbished and more staff brought in, with two extra nurses per 24-hour shift and another during the day, it said. Four community workers would also respond to crises during the week, instead of one.

A trust report put to board members last week said Fiennes "continued to work with a reduced number of beds, due to staffing pressures" with ten to 13 in use.

The length of stays at all its OAP wards had reduced by about a fifth, to cut demand for beds, it said.

Mr Duncan said: "We have more beds than we need. Currently the Fiennes has on average 18 admissions a year for patients from the Banbury area."

He said: "We believe that this resource would be better used to expand community teams to provide a seven-day service and to increase staffing in our remaining older adult mental health inpatient wards."

The Horton Hospital, Banbury

Cancer treatment boost for children

CHILDREN with cancer in North Oxfordshire will now be able to get more treatment at Banbury's Horton General Hospital.

From May, there will be more treatments for haematology and oncology patients at the Horton, meaning patients will not have to travel to Oxford's John Radcliffe Hospital.

Transfusions, antibiotics and immunity-boosting drugs will be among the treatments available, alongside dressing changes and blood samples.

The hospital said that elective reviews would also be available, but subject to the availability of specific doctors.

Tony McDonald, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust general manager for children's and women's division, said he was "delighted".

He said: "A key part of our children's strategy is bringing services closer to children, young people and their families and the communities in which they live."

Paediatric doctor Dr Tania Davison said: "This can be a very difficult time for families, so if reducing the amount of travelling for treatment makes it easier for them, we are very happy to help."

Pinpointed for the worst pay

ACCORDING to the TUC, although the Oxford East constituency is one of the areas in the South East where workers get the best pay, the worst area of Oxfordshire is Banbury, which sees 15.8 per cent of jobs not paying the living wage. The TUC's Megan Dobney said that having a living wage was "a vital way of tackling the growing problem of in-work poverty".

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Savile inquiry to investigate 1970s visits to special school

ABOVE: Jimmy Savile, pictured on a charity run in Oxford in 1979
BELOW: Penhurst School, pictured in 1992

Former governor tells of shock

By Ben Wilkinson

AN INVESTIGATION has been launched to determine whether paedophile Jimmy Savile preyed on severely disabled children in Oxfordshire in the 1970s.

Penhurst School in Chipping Norton has just been revealed as one of more than 20 children's homes and schools where the disgraced entertainer may have struck.

The special school, which shut down last year with the loss of 140 jobs, catered for children with profound and multiple learning disabilities.

Former school governor Jo Graves said she was shocked by the news.

She added: "It aggrieves me to think it could have happened."

The Chipping Norton town councillor said residents had raised money for the school and many had worked there, adding: "It was held very dear and very highly regarded.

"It never entered my head to think he would have been round here and that would have happened."

The allegations revealed by the Department for Education came after a review of documents by the Metropolitan Police.

The Chipping Norton investigation will be run by Action for Children – the charity which ran the New Street school under its former name, the National Children's Home.

Spokesman Huw Beale said: "We are committed to keeping children safe and have robust measures in place to do so.

"We are co-operating with the Department for Education and will conduct a full investigation into Savile's possible visits to our former school in the 1970s."

He added: "We want to reassure people who may be concerned that there has been no allegation of any improper conduct."

Trevor Cowlett, 81, helped to raise more than £200,000 for the school with the Kennington Choir. The conductor said: "I am absolutely shocked. I am very saddened if it is true."

Former Penhurst headteacher Stephen Bajdala-Brown said he knew of no mention of Savile in the school's archives, adding: "You would think with someone of his celebrity there would at least be a photograph."

Education Secretary Michael Gove told Parliament that human rights lawyer Lucy Scott-Moncrieff would oversee the investigations at 21 institutions.

He said: "I have asked Lucy Scott-Moncrieff to ensure that investigating organisations take all practicable steps to establish what happened and why, and any lessons there might be learned to update current safeguarding practices in our schools and children's homes."

Alan Collins, an abuse lawyer at Slater and Gordon that represents 140 of Savile's victims, said: "We welcome any investigation that could uncover further how widespread Savile's abuse was.

"It is important that we know exactly when, where and how this predatory paedophile committed his horrific crimes."

● Anyone with information should call Action for Children on 0800 9804502.

Launch of probe

● DJ and *Jim'll Fix It* presenter Jimmy Savile died in October 2011, aged 84.

A documentary shown on ITV a year later aired claims Savile had sexually abused women, girls and boys.

***The Other Side Of Jimmy Savile* led to a joint review by the Metropolitan Police and NSPCC and the findings, published in January last year, saw 214 criminal offences, including 34 rapes, recorded against Savile's name across the UK between 1955 and 2009.**

The national investigation, known as Operation Yewtree, was also launched after the abuse claims.

RSPB results revealed after the Big Garden Birdwatch

Keeping a watch on our feathered friends

By Ben Holgate

JOE HARRIS spends his working days observing wildlife – but when he sat down in his own back yard to participate in the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds' Big Garden Birdwatch he saw, well, . . . nothing.

"I didn't see any birds in my garden," admitted the warden of the RSPB's Otmoor Nature Reserve.

"I'm sure it's because it's been a lot milder and there's loads of food in the wild."

In Oxfordshire, 7,808 people kept watch in their garden for an hour over the weekend of January 25/26 and the collated figures that have just been published, reveal that the local number of birds has held steady over the past five years.

Once again, the house sparrow was the most-spotted bird, both in Oxfordshire and nationally.

"House sparrows live fairly close to where people live," said Mr Harris. "They're a fairly friendly bird. They're not too afraid of humans."

House sparrows typically make nests in shrubs, bushes and in the eaves of houses.

In second position was the blue tit, which Mr Harris said was "an adaptable species" and liked bird boxes for nesting.

In third place is the blackbird, followed by the woodpigeon.

Mr Harris thinks the goldfinch, which moved up from number six last year to fifth position, has become more prevalent because more people are putting out the types of food the bird likes – such as sunflower and nyjer seeds.

Although the starling was the sixth most frequently sighted bird locally, its numbers have dropped dramatically – by a staggering 81 per cent – since the Big Garden Birdwatch began in 1979.

Mr Harris attributes the decline to farmers' increased use of herbicides and pesticides, killing off the starling's favourite insects.

The RSPB is encouraging people to help attract more birds to their gardens by putting out a wider variety of seeds; putting up bird boxes for nesting; and planting wildflowers to attract insects.

This was the first year the Birdwatch included sightings of animals – in particular, deer, squirrel, badgers, hedgehogs, frogs and toads. The animal data is still being collated.

Nationally 500,000 people participated.

RSPB warden Joe Harris

InBRIEF

Striking up the band in a salute

BEATLES fans will be heading for Adderbury Bowls Club on Friday, April 11, when musicians from around the area pay tribute to the Fab Four. Instrumentalists are invited to take part in a jam session of songs written and made famous by the Liverpool group, who took the world by storm in the 1960s. Event organiser Barry Jackson said: "Anyone who can play any instrument can just turn up and join in. We hope these sessions will become regular monthly events – for musicians and for those who just like listening to impromptu music." The event – for 18-year-olds and upwards – starts the Twyford Gardens club at 8pm. Admission is free and the bar will be open. Details: call 01295 811118 or see adderburybowlsclub.co.uk

Waste site hours

WASTE recycling sites in Oxfordshire will be open for longer. The county council is extending opening hours from this month on Thursdays until 8pm. The sites are currently open from 8am to 5pm every day, including Sundays, but the council said it wanted to make use of the lighter evenings. No extra staff will be employed. The council's recycling chief, David Nimmo Smith, said: "We get over one million visits every year at our recycling centres and we want to make it as easy as possible for people to bring their household waste to the sites. By opening for longer during the spring and summer, people can avoid the busy weekends and site staff will have more time to help them to recycle as much as possible."

Funding bid hope

A BID for £37m of funding towards care for the elderly has been approved. Oxfordshire County Council's cabinet approved the bid – which will be submitted to NHS England tomorrow. If granted, the money would be spent on a series of projects to reduce the number of elderly people permanently admitted to care homes.

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Trustworthy list to beat tricksters

A LIST of trustworthy traders is being built up, as figures show doorstep scams have reached a five-year high.

Oxfordshire County Council's trading standards team have signed up the 100th firm to its "Buy with Confidence" list of approved traders.

In December it was revealed that rogue traders were on track to trick a total of £1m out of Oxfordshire residents by the end of the financial year.

By the end of February, victims had lost an estimated £824,000 to rogue traders in 426 incidents since April last year.

Trading standards team manager Richard Webb, said: "Unfortunately there are a small minority of businesses who seek to dupe and con people, often the elderly and vulnerable, via shoddy work and vastly inflated prices, often through pressurised selling techniques, like cold-calling.

"Part of the reason 'Buy with Confidence' was set up was to provide people with an approved list of traders so residents could feel confident in using those firms on it and also it deals a solid blow to those rogue traders who try to drum up business via deceitful and criminal methods."

Approved businesses are given a certificate and Buy with Confidence logo for business documentation and advertising.

For information on the Buy with Confidence scheme, call 0845 051 0845 or visit oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/buy-confidence

Trading standards team manager Richard Webb

Contest finalists jointly lost 15 stone

Looming wedding inspired slimmers

By Rachel Bayne

THEY fell in love after meeting on *Facebook*, going for dates at the cinema and cooking together.

But for this Banbury couple, getting engaged prompted a massive challenge – losing weight.

Now Vikki Stretch and David Strangwood have lost a total of 15st 2.5lb between them in preparation for their big day.

This weight loss total took the couple to the finals of this year's *Slimming World's* national weight-loss competition.

The couple, who lost out to Graeme and Lisa Wharton, from Sunderland, are thrilled with the amount of weight they have lost.

Miss Stretch, 21, from Withycombe Drive, lost more than eight stone after attending slimming classes with her friend.

The Banbury & Bicester College student said: "I used to weigh 18st and 6lb. I was a size 22 when I started trying to lose weight and now I'm a size ten.

"I just have have so much more energy now. It's amazing.

"It used to take me 40 minutes to walk to work, but now it takes 20."

Her fiance of two years, David Strangwood, 23, lost more than seven stone through support from friends and home cooking.

He said: "I think losing weight together made a big difference, because we were able to spur each other on every week and we were eating the same meals.

"We eat so much more healthily now."

The couple started dating four years ago after meeting through mutual friends on *Facebook*.

Miss Stretch said: "I decided to lose weight because we got engaged and I didn't want to get married and have pictures taken where I looked like that."

She has bought herself a new bike for the summer and after a year of being engaged, hopes to start planning her wedding once she completes her college course.

She said her weight-loss secret was eating less sugar and using less olive oil when cooking.

Shirley Warren, who runs the Slimming World group in Banbury, said: "I'm so proud of David and Vikki.

"I hope their story inspires lots of other couples to make a change."

Before and after pictures – Vikki Stretch and David Strangwood decided to slim after getting engaged OX62250

■ Pavilion wrecked, trees felled, trains stopped and power lost

Electrical storm leaves a trail of destruction

By Ben Wilkinson

POWERFUL lightning strikes destroyed a cricket club pavilion and blew apart a tree on Friday.

During the violent electrical storm, which swept the county, homes also lost power and trains were delayed.

Six fire engines were called to the blaze at the Banbury Twenty Cricket Club in Ermont Way, Banbury, at about 2.36pm after reports of a lightning strike.

The club's president, Geoff Hawkins, said: "It was hit by a bolt of lightning and it gutted the whole pavilion.

"The building was 11 years old, cost us £350,000 to put up.

"It was gone in five minutes flat."

Train travellers faced delays when lightning hit a tree near Banbury.

It fell on to the line between Banbury and London Marylebone. The line was blocked for nearly two hours after the strike at about 3pm.

Nicholas Kaye, who lives at Shipton-on-Cherwell, was having lunch with his family when a 120ft redwood in his garden was torn apart by a bolt.

He said: "There was an explosion, like I had never heard before. It was like a bomb going off."

The 54-year-old said: "We turned around, looked out and there was all this debris there."

Mr Kaye's car was dented by a shard and a window was smashed through.

He added: "My son and daughter were petrified. Everywhere we looked we found damage.

"It looks like a nuclear site. There are spears of wood just sticking into the ground."

The electrical surge also blew apart his telephone and Internet router.

Southern Electric spokesman Hannah Gleave said about 230 customers lost power for about two hours after a large fault occurred in Kidlington at about 1.50pm.

ABOVE: Flames lick the Banbury Twenty Cricket Club building after the lightning strike

LEFT: Nicholas Kaye at his home in Shipton on Cherwell with the shattered tree in his garden

InBRIEF

Delay over sentencing

■ **THE sentencing of a man who was found guilty of sexually grooming a young girl was adjourned for a week. In February, after a three-day trial at Oxford Crown Court, Luke Southam was found guilty of the charge against a 13-year-old girl. The 21-year-old, of Cornish Road, Chipping Norton, was due to be sentenced on Friday, but the probation service requested an extra week to prepare reports. Judge Tom Corrie granted the extension, which will allow time for a psychological report to be prepared, and adjourned the sentencing until tomorrow. He was released on conditional bail.**

Rising prices

■ HOUSE prices in the county continued to rise last month to a new record high of £254,414. The figure was 0.3 per cent up on the £253,808 recorded in January by the Government's Land Registry. It is the ninth successive rise, although the rate of increase appears to have slowed compared to recent months. The annual rate of increase remained stable at 4.5 per cent. Nationally, the average price of a property now stands at £170,000.

Warning is issued over scarlet fever

PARENTS are being warned to keep a watch for scarlet fever, after 66 cases were reported in Oxfordshire last month.

The number of cases is up from 22 in February and 11 in January, according to Public Health England.

Advice has been sent out to schools in the county from Public Health England about the condition. But parents are being told not to worry.

A Public Health England spokesman said: "Scarlet fever is not unusual. The information is being sent out to avoid people panicking.

"It has a season and we are coming towards the end of that season now, but it is quite common and easily dealt with."

It is mainly a childhood disease, affecting two- to eight-year-olds.

Symptoms include a sore throat, fever, and a fine, raised rash.

A round of antibiotics can treat the condition.

Parents are being advised to consult their doctor if they think their child could have it.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Trevor Skidmore feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury & Abingdon areas and Trevor is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Trevor a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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£1.55m deal is signed to give every secondary school its own nurse

Medic deal for schools

County council health chief Hilary Hibbert-Biles

EVERY secondary school in Oxfordshire will have its own full-time nurse as part of a £1.55m deal.

Previously, some schools in the county only had school nurses for half a day a week, and others only an hour.

But under the new contract, signed between the county council and the Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, there will be 35 school health nurses, 34 of whom will be assigned to an individual school.

And one nurse will cover Heyford Free School and the Pupil Referral Unit.

Many headteachers had asked: "What's the catch?". But the county council's health chief, Hilary Hibbert-Biles calmed their worries over the new contract – which comes into force in September. It covers the provision of nurses who will work in primary schools across Oxfordshire – covering clusters of up to 12 schools.

Mrs Hibbert-Biles said: "In my view, healthy children will become healthy adults. This will

By Sophie Scott

help them have a better lifestyle and, therefore, have less impact on the NHS later in life.

"I think schools have lots of pressure. Children these days face a lot of mental health issues and it would be a great help to those children.

"Eventually I would like to do more within primary schools.

"I just felt the pressures of secondary school pupils were far greater at the moment than the primary schools.

"The school nurses will do an analysis of the school needs with the headteacher and work with them and teachers within that school.

"There will be a public health agenda on smoking cessation, sexual health, healthy eating and the immunisations programme.

"For example, it is rare people start smoking as an adult, and if schools decided there was a particular cohort with smoking concerns, then the school could look at how to address that."

Pauline Scully, interim director of the children and families division at Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, said: "Our school nurses are highly skilled and occupy a unique position in their ability to ensure children and young people's health needs are met.

Public health consultant for Oxfordshire County Council Rebecca Cooper

"We are looking forward to the opportunity of working closely with schools, pupils and their families to make sure that the children of Oxfordshire are healthy and able to reach their full potential."

Dr Rebecca Cooper, public health consultant at the county council, said: "With pressure to do well increasing all the time, I believe school health nurses offer students the necessary support network they need to stay happy and healthy as they progress through their secondary education."

One headteacher, whose school already had a full-time school nurse, said: "It has had an enormous impact on the quality of life for our students, in both their physical and emotional wellbeing.

"This is someone who is not a teacher and someone they can trust."

A county council spokesman said it was not possible to make comparisons with the previous spending on school health nurses, but she said the council was confident the contract represented an increase in spending.

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03/04/2014

STRIKE FAST Bubbly, blonde, blue-eyed Devizes woman, 43, 5'6'', enjoys listening to music, country walks and more, searching for a nice and genuine guy, to share caring times and the future. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 155233 or send a text to 80360**

GENUINE PARTNER WANTED! Sincere, loyal, Christian Banbury female, 45, searching for a loving, kind-hearted and honest man, for friendship initially and hopefully a romantic relationship in the future. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 154128 or send a text to 80360**

WALK IN THE PARK Sensitive, friendly and selfless Abingdon-On-Thames female, 46, searching for a spirited, warm male, for friendship and a fresh start in life. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 159088 or send a text to 80360**

SPARKS FLYING Fun, curvy, green-eyed Wiltshire brunette, 46, looking for genuine, loving guy, to share some caring times and future happiness. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 852093 or send a text to 80360**

IT COULD BE US Spiritual, genuine Didcot woman, 47, attractive, fun, have grown up children, likes clubs, cafes, music, films, walking and reading, seeking a caring and optimistic man, for friendship first. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123828 or send a text to 80360**

OF A GENUINE DESCRIPTION Laid-back Swindon female, 47, still looking for my Mr Right, to share and enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 126129**

QUALITY TIMES Sunny, loving, divorced, loyal Swindon girl, 47, 5'3'', average-build, likes restaurants, walks, travelling, looking to find a tactful, endearing male, for love and an honest future together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138116**

DINE WITH ME Sincere, sociable Devizes lady, 48, non-smoker. I like country walks, pets, cosy evenings in, would like to meet a male who enjoys wining and dining for friendship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 162460 or send a text to 80360**

BIKERS! BIKERS! BIKERS! Attractive, brunette biker babe, 51, 5'8'', would like to meet a similar minded man for fun and possible relationship. Enjoys dancing, evenings out and trips away, are you my Valentino Rossi? **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 168207 or send a text to 80360**

START LIVING AGAIN Friendly, fun Oxfordshire divorced mum, 52, 5'7'', grown up children, looking for love again and someone to share life with. Is the right man out there for me? **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 798804**

EASY TO GET ON WITH Caring, loving, 52 year old Oxford female, 5'7'', slim, brown hair, blue eyes, enjoys swimming, dog walking, GSOH, attractive, who is looking for a really caring guy, to build a relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 165506 or send a text to 80360**

ASK ME OUT! Caring, fit, 52 year old Chipping Norton female, 5'7'', slim build, blue eyes, brunette, GSOH, enjoys swimming & dog walking. WLTM a caring, loving male for hopefully a relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 164129 or send a text to 80360**

EASY TO LOVE Easy-going, decent, sincere, 53 year old Swindon female, 5'7'', average build, long hair, love music and pets. Would like to meet someone to share happy times with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 167521 or send a text to 80360**

HOPE TO MEET YOU SOON Friendly, 54 year old Chipping Norton female, dog owner, enjoy cooking, walking and days in and out, would like to meet a great guy, for friendship first and see what happens. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 167670 or send a text to 80360**

I'LL TREAT YOU RIGHT Sincere Swindon woman, 55, GSOH, fun personality, loves nights out, socialising and music, seeks a friendly bloke, to share lots of good times and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104377 or send a text to 80360**

LADY SEEKS GENT Outgoing, friendly, fit Bradford-On-Avonlady, 55, likes animals, walks, travel, seeking a similar male, for company and companionship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 161075 or send a text to 80360**

SOMETHING LASTING Perceptive, polite and romantic Bampton woman, 56, my children and grandchildren are a huge joy in my life. I would like to find an energetic, consistent man, to share the future with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 167144 or send a text to 80360**

NEED THAT SOMEONE SPECIAL Intelligent, attractive, well dressed, 60, widow, enjoys keeping active and swimming, looking for a kind, intelligent, active male, for friendship, possibly more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 151752 or send a text to 80360**

LOVE IS FOR SHARING Easygoing, sincere Trowbridge lady, 61, med build, 5'6'', GSOH, N/S, enjoys good social life, darts, music, walking & reading, searching for that special guy, N/S and caring for dates & more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 116161**

SEEKING THE RIGHT MAN Separated, attractive Witney female, 61, 5'2'', curvy, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128289 or send a text to 80360**

HAND IN HAND Widow lady, 61, works part-time, enjoys socialising, meeting new people, country walks, holidays, seeks placid gent to enjoy laughter and more. Witney **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100300**

STILL GOT IT Outgoing, bright brunette, 57, still gorgeous, enjoys music, dancing, cinema, walks & galleries, seeks slim N/S male, 39-52. S Bucks. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 609532 or send a text to 80360**

LISTEN TO YOUR HEART Happy go lucky Warminster female, 63, looking for a nice kind and reliable man to share good times together and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 120544**

SPEAK SOON.... Trustworthy, 66 year old Swindon lady, would like to meet a special man who, like me, enjoys various music, meals out and country pubs. I have a good sense of humour, am caring and a non-smoker. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 167120 or send a text to 80360**

LET'S BE HAPPY TOGETHER Sociable, witty Oxford lady, 66, would like to meet that special man, for companionship, a lasting friendship and see where it leads to from there. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 158099**

DO IT TOGETHER Down-to-earth, retired Bicester lady, 68, enjoys car boot sales, bingo, eating out and generally always up for a laugh, would like to meet a kind, caring gent, for friendship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 158321 or send a text to 80360**

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JUST WANT TO BE HAPPY Friendly, bubbly, caring female, 56, with a great sense of humour. Looking for a genuine, nice, romantic, caring guy, 55-58, with a GSOH, 6', medium build, for company, friendship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 156609 or send a text to 80360**

SHALL WE DANCE? Blonde, blue-eyed Swindon girl, 57, friendly nature, well-travelled and loyal, lover of life, searching for an active, educated man, who appreciates, food, wine and life in general. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 110895**

RECIPE FOR LOVE Kind hearted, sociable Oxford lady, 58, active, caring, GSOH, enjoys rock concerts, seaside, animals and driving, searching for a warm, loving and funny gent, for company, sharing and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 130132**

LET'S FIND EACH OTHER Down-to-earth, loving, black Wolverhampton female, 58, 5'4'', seeking a nice man, with GSOH, to enjoy each others interests, travel together and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 148802 or send a text to 80360**

LOOKING TO SETTLE DOWN Youthful, outgoing, honest Trowbridge woman, 61, 5'6'', slim build, brunette, glasses, N/S, enjoys darts, car boot sales, bingo, gardening and more, seeking that special man, to settle down with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 159284 or send a text to 80360**

DOG LOVER? Kind, caring, 61 year old Oxford female, widow, dog lover, enjoy playing bowls, theatre, holidays, sports and country walks. Would like to meet a like-minded man for friendship and maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 167808 or send a text to 80360**

THE LONG TERM Separated, easygoing Oxon female, 61, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100451**

LIVE THE LIFE YOU LOVE Cuddly Chipping Norton widow, 61, widowed with grown up family. Enjoys walking her 2 dogs and playing bowls for a local team. Seeks similar gent, for friendship and romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132223 or send a text to 80360**

BE MY GOAL Lonely lady, 60, 5'7'', simply the best, kind, loving & caring, likes antiques, car boot sales & eating out, seeks male for friendship & relationship. Bicester. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 940563 or send a text to 80360**

100% YOURS Genuine, kind, 70 year old Salisbury female, 5'5'', blonde hair, blue eyes, slim build, retired, enjoys holidays in the sun, country walks, gardening and cooking. Would like to meet a nice, tall man. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 167233 or send a text to 80360**

WALK OF LIFE Self-assured, strong-minded and motivated Bampton girl, 72, just looking to meet a friendly, trustworthy male, for a special and lasting relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 156046**

COMPLETE THE PICTURE Attractive, honest Swindon lady, 75, 5'5'', loves cinema, theatre, national trust, walks, would like to meet a tall, non-smoking gent, under 70 with a GSOH. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140415**

HONEST COMPANY SOUGHT Kind, caring Oxford female, 79, likes country drive, pub lunches, fishing, seeking a tall man, with a good sense of humour, to share life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 143388**

SHARE SOME TIME Adaptable, upbeat and optimistic Oxford man, 34, would like to find a warm, laid-back girl, for good times and great company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134837**

CARING & CONSIDERATE Kind-hearted, active Oxford man, 37, enjoys staying fit, playing sports and fine dining with friends and family, would like to meet a similar female, for companionship and love. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 147290 or send a text to 80360**

TIME TO SHARE Lively Oxford male, 40, 5'10'', med build, enjoys motorbikes, clubs, cinema, meals and more, searching for a loving woman, to share friendship and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117999 or send a text to 80360**

MUCH MUCH MORE Bright, upbeat and happy Oxfordshire man, 41, with personality, would like a date with a bubbly, tender, warm-hearted girl, to share the good times and great company. Could you be the one for me? **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 111253 or send a text to 80360**

PERFECT HARMONY Fun-loving, easygoing and tactile Witney biker, 42, 6ft, stocky build, shaven head and goatee, would like to meet a fun-loving, cheeky lady, to share a happy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 108035**

A LUCKY STRIKE Rational, positive and expressive Didcot man, 46, would like to find a funny, helpful female, for a special and lasting relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 161546**

COME CLOSER Active, kind-hearted and upbeat Oxford bloke, 47, 6'3'', looking to find an insightful, liberal woman, for fun and maybe a little romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 130080**

YOUNG AT HEART? Genuine, honest, self-employed Oxford male, 47, 5'9'', own home and car, likes the seaside and country walks, would like to meet a youthful, slim lady, age 55-63, to share a happy future with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 157106 or send a text to 80360**

FUN AND ADVENTURE Professional, caring male, 47, 5'9'', N/S, own home and car, enjoys days out to the seaside, seeking young-at-heart, honest lady, to spend quality time with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 146399**

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL Kind, caring, down-to-earth Thame male, 47, enjoys music, country walks, cooking, reading, films, seeking a kind, sincere, slim female, 25+. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137427**

LOOK TO THE FUTURE Jovial, innovative and self-sufficient Reading gent, 47, wants to meet woman, to have fun and who knows. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 157382 or send a text to 80360**

DON'T BE SHY, GIVE ME A TRY! Charming, happy, Abingdon male, 47, 6', enjoys pubs, clubs and nights out, but just as happy with a walk in the countryside and a night in by the fire with the right person. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 164128 or send a text to 80360**

READY FOR A NEW START Down-to-earth, responsive and energetic Wantage guy, 50, just looking to meet a stable, consistent girl, 30-55, for fun and maybe a little romance. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 162727 or send a text to 80360**

ACCEPT EACH OTHER Easygoing Wantage male, 52, own car, works full-time, likes most sports, would like to meet an outgoing female, for good times leading to more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 135164 or send a text to 80360**

TIME FOR A CHANGE Friendly, expressive and vibrant Kidlington male, 52, with plenty of interests in life, would like to meet a life-loving, interesting lady, to share love, laughter and the future together. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 114479**

LOVE THE ONE YOU'RE WITH Friendly, warm-hearted Abingdon male, 52, good sense of humour, would like to meet a caring, well-matured girl, to enjoy good times together. Is you're looking for true love then get in touch. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115894**

EYE TO EYE Nice gent, 53, enjoys history, coastal walks, architecture, walking, cosy nights in, cooking, DIY, would like to meet a lady for companionship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 152776 or send a text to 80360**

ALL TO LOVE Kind and caring Oxfordshire male, 53, brown hair, green eyes, GSOH, searching for a nice, genuine girl, for friendship first, then maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 461278**

THE START OF SOMETHING NEW? Mature Oxford man, 55, 5'8'', green eyes, N/S, likes music, walking and keeping fit, GSOH, would like to meet a nice, bright lady, for fun times and see where that leads to. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 158142 or send a text to 80360**

TAKE CHARGE Bright, humorous and optimistic Banbury man, 56, would like a date with a chatty, active woman, for good times and great company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132836**

MAKE A DATE Young-at-heart, blue-eyed Wallingford man, 58, GSOH, enjoys dancing, would like to meet a friendly lady, to get to know each other and see where that leads to. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 159203 or send a text to 80360**

SHARING GOOD TIMES Upbeat Burford widower, 59, own cars, works full time, likes days in and out, countryside walks, driving, looking for a similar woman for companionship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117916 or send a text to 80360**

CARING NATURE Friendly, adventurous and vibrant Witney male, 59, would like to meet a bubbly, observant lady, for good times, great company and maybe more if there is a spark. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 111595**

PASSION FLOWER Youthful, friendly Oxford chap, 60, 5'9'', dark hair, enjoys cinema, bowling, active days out and socialising, searching for a loving, happy and loyal woman, to build a lasting relationship with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101122 or send a text to 80360**

KEEPING WITH THE TIMES Happy go lucky, blue-eyed Banbury man, 60, 5'6'', slim build, likes gardening, cinema, meals out, travel, country side and 60s music, seeks genuine lady, for friendship maybe more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 156014 or send a text to 80360**

FUN AND LAUGHTER Honest, sensitive and decent Oxford man, 60, would like to find a warm-hearted, genuine, caring woman, to share laughter and enjoy life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 145981 or send a text to 80360**

DECISION IS YOURS Honest, easygoing Yorkshire man living in Banbury, 60, 5'6'', slim build, self employed, likes gardening, cooking, cinema, travel, countryside, seeks genuine lady, to share life with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 140930**

SCRUBS UP WELL! Optimistic, positive, 61 Witney male. I'm active with a good sense of humour. Having diverse interests and still scrubbing up well, seeking an attractive lady who is also active and enjoys life. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 161846 or send a text to 80360**

POSITIVE ATTITUDE Fit Latino male, 62, looking for someone who can share fun, life in general and hopefully love with. Oxford. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 460522**

SO GOOD TOGETHER Genuine, easygoing, happy Abingdon male, 63, own home/car, enjoys dancing, days out and walking the dog, searching for a genuine lady, with an attractive and happy nature. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 466085**

A FRIEND INDEED Semi-retired Oxford male, 67, 6', slim-build, likes playing bowls, home life, seeking an easygoing female, for good times and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137812**

LONG LASTING HAPPINESS Solvent, retired business gent, North Oxfordshire, 67, own home and car etc, with a love of cinema, travel and new adventure, seeks a nice, loyal, feminine lady, for companionship then who knows? **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132140**

LOVING LIFE Loyal, solvent North Oxfordshire gent, 67, 5'9'', loves soul and motown music, coffee and theatre, searching for an attractive, interesting lady, 50-65, to share and explore interesting times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104998**

OPEN YOUR HEART Cheerful, slim Banbury male, 70, 5'6'', GSOH, likes sport, walks, animals and cosy evenings in, searching for a decent, positive lady, to settle down with and share a happy future. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104901 or send a text to 80360**

SEE FOR YOURSELF Youthful, faithful, liberal and sympathetic Middlesbrough man, 73, looking for a sweet, sensitive woman, for good times and great company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 141502 or send a text to 80360**

SOUL TO SOUL Fun, talkative and friendly Oxford guy, 79, likes social drinks from time to time, just hoping to meet a bubbly, confident lady, to build a loving, lasting relationship with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100937**

COMPANION SOUGHT Charming, honest and genuine, 80 year old Bicester male, love classical music, would like to meet a lady of a similar age to me, someone I could share lunches and good conversation with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 168363**

SAIL AWAY Sociable, bubbly and happy Bicester female, 42, seeking a chatty, optimistic female, for good times and great company. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 147448 or send a text to 80360**

HOPE THIS WORKS Cuddly Swindon lady, 48, easygoing and fun to be with, looking for friendship leading to more with a nice, friendly, bubbly woman. Where are you? **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 851817**

MADE FOR EACH OTHER Happy go lucky Abingdon-On-Thames male, 47, 5'9'', medium build, short hair, likes walks, cinema, social drink, quiet pubs, seeking a nice guy, for friendship and hopefully more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 166651 or send a text to 80360**

SHOW YOUR COLOURS Honest, old fashioned, non-scene Oxford male, 57, fit, clean living, not into pubs, clubs or crowds, seeking a mature male, for friendship, days out, holiday and fun times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 865303**

MAKE A CONNECTION Interesting, friendly Oxford male, 65, varied interests, loves walks, reading, travel and more, seeks sensitive male, similar age, for a loving relationship. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 857624**

THAT'S ALL FOR NOW... Easygoing, friendly Didcot male, 67, enjoys walks, theatre, cosy times in, socialising, seeks a friendly, active chap, for company and more. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 131800 or send a text to 80360**

SOCIAL TIMES Caring, sociable 67 Abingdon-On-Thames male. I am semi-retired, presentable and cheerful, looking for similar male to share good times, fun and friendship with. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 161819 or send a text to 80360**

LET'S EXPLORE Abingdon male, 70, 5'9'', medium build, easygoing and affectionate, looking for someone similar, to share fun and good times. **Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 453567 or send a text to 80360**

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CakeLeisure
banburycake.co.uk/leisure

Echoes that simply bounce off The Wall

Proudly entering their 18th year, the ever-popular tribute band Dark Side Of The Wall return to The Mill Arts Centre, Banbury, on Saturday.

With performances all over the country, including a hugely popular slot at last summer's Upton Festival, DSOTW's well-earned reputation for providing audiences with an entertaining show to match the meticulous detail and high level of musicianship that's required to perform the music of one of the most revered bands in the history of rock music, continues to grow.

Steve Chilton, the band's bass player and co-manager said: "We've been coming to Banbury virtually every year for well over a decade now and we always love the reception we get here.

" The Mill really suits what we do and is always a highlight of our year. Also, this particular show sees us debut our new nine-piece line up for the first time, as Louise Wilson joins Sofia Wilks in the female backing vocals department to give the band the full Pulse concert sound. We're all really excited about that!"

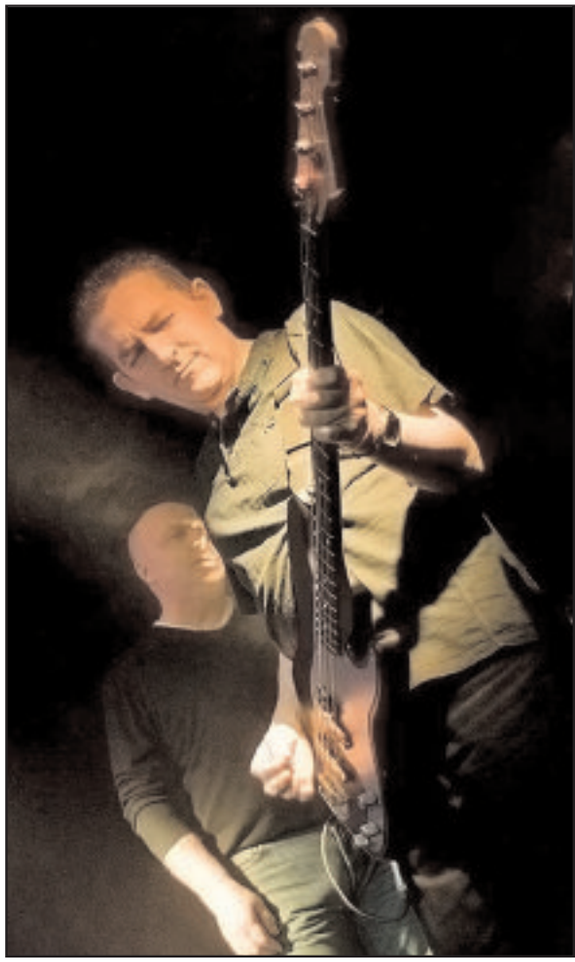
Unlike some of the other Floyd tribute bands out there DSOTW always provide plenty of on-stage entertainment to accompany the much loved music they perform.

Steve said: "We're very conscious that when people go out for the evening they want to be entertained and enjoy a great night out. Enthusiasm is contagious and when we play Pink Floyd music to a likeminded crowd we all seem to revel in the atmosphere together.

"We would never simply stand on stage like cardboard cut-outs, play our instruments and never say a word. That's not what live music should be about as far as we're concerned. We're obviously not Pink Floyd, so we don't try to pretend to be so. We simply act ourselves on stage, playing the music but not taking ourselves too seriously. It seems to work!"

In well over two hours of reverent tribute to their heroes, and accompanied by a spectacular light show, DSOTW perform music from all Pink Floyd's classic albums and feature tracks such as *Comfortably Numb, Money, Shine On You Crazy Diamond* and *Another Brick In The Wall,* to name just a few.

For tickets, call the box office on 01295 279002, see themillartscentre.co.uk or pay at the box office on the night, subject to availability.



ABOVE: Mick Freeman and Steve Chilton in action
BELOW LEFT: Dark Side of the Wall take to the stage

Lucy takes a comic look North

COMEDY favourite Lucy Porter, *pictured left*, brings her new stand-up show "Northern Soul" to Banbury Mill Arts Centre on Thursday, April 17.

Does geography shape your destiny?

Fringe favourite Lucy Porter's latest show is about never quite knowing where you belong.

Born in Croydon to a Northern Irish dad and a Midlander mum (who met in Africa), Lucy never felt comfortable as a South London suburbanite.

In her teenage years she was seduced by the music of Morrissey, the art of David Hockney and the politics of Dennis Skinner.

Then she was seduced by the kissing of an actual man from Bury, and she started to suspect that the North of England might be her spiritual home.

Stand-up comedy has allowed Lucy to travel the world, and she's acquired a taste for the exotic (she even married a Welshman) but she's still – like the Littlest Hobo – waiting to find a place to settle down.

Currently living in London, Lucy still finds that her internal compass points North, but now she suspects it might be a symptom of the profound, insatiable longing that CS Lewis describes as "The Northernness".

For tickets, call the box office on 01295 279002.

CakeSport

banburycake.co.uk/sport

Win slips from Banbury's grip

All seemed rosy for Banbury as Albi Skendi helped put them into a 3-0 lead against Bashley

BANBURY United ended their record run of nine successive league defeats, but threw away a golden chance of beating bottom club Bashley at Spencer Stadium on Saturday.

The Puritans appeared to be cruising to their first Premier Division win for three months when they led 3-0, with less than 20 minutes to go.

But boss Edwin Stein watched in dismay as the visitors scored three goals – the last of which came in the fifth minute of injury time – to snatch an unlikely draw.

The only consolation for Banbury was that they had ended that dreadful losing sequence.

Amazingly, all the goals came in the second half after a dull opening 45 minutes, in which the home side, who gave a debut to Tom Fishwick – signed from Racing Club Warwick – had the upper hand. Banbury opened the scoring in the 53rd minute. Marvin Martin fed Albi Skendi, who bustled his way through to the edge of the Bashley penalty area before unleashing a drive into the bottom corner.

Banbury Utd	3
(Skendi 53, Martin 57, Talabi 69)	
Bashley	3
(Odam 73, 75, Joyce 90+5)	

Four minutes later, Skendi returned the favour as he passed to an unmarked Martin, who fired home past keeper Nic Jones.

Banbury made it 3-0 after 69 minutes.

Substitute Claudio Dias knocked the ball forward for Adeyinka Talabi, who fought off a challenge before netting with a lob from the edge of the penalty area. It looked as though Banbury had the points in the bag.

Bashley pulled a goal back on 73 minutes when former Puritan, Manny Soetan, flicked the ball to Jack Odam, who netted from a narrow angle.

Two minutes later, Bashley were back in the game as Odam scored with a superb curling shot into the far top corner.

After a bad miss from Soretan, it looked as though Banbury were going to hold out.

But deep into stoppage time Scott Joyce got on the end of a long punt forward and knocked home from 12 yards.

Banbury Utd: Dutton, Cray, Abrahams, Isaac, Blossom, Fishwick (Collins 78), Martin, Obeng, Skendi, Green (Dias 66), Dumbleton (Talabi 57). Subs not used: Tappin, Bevis.

Attendance: 217.

STARS with Claire Petulengro

Service provided by IMS Leeds LS1 8LB. Calls cost 60p per minute at all times

ARIES Mar 21-Apr 19

Good times await you if you can compartmentalise what happened in the past and move on to the future. You have grown so much as a person that I hope you can see, as I can Aries, that even though there has been pain there have been lessons learnt which will make you appreciate all that is good. From here on in is a new you and a new beginning. Ring now so I can help you move forward.

0906 585 4360

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20

Venus, the planet of love, ensures that you can get the attention of those you've admired from afar. Watch out for an ex trying to cause trouble. Don't bite or it will only give their stories more credence. New ways to make your day to day working life easier come via a new face whose influence is set to shake up your career. Ring now to motivate yourself more financially.

0906 585 4361

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20

Regret is such a waste of energy Gemini, and I hope you learn this lesson sooner rather than later. You see my friend, the sooner you do, the sooner you will give out the signal that you want and deserve someone who will treat you with love and respect. Don't play games or take chances in your career this week or you'll lose an important supporter. Ring now to prioritise.

0906 585 4362

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22

Ensuring that you have done what is expected of you in the workplace is the key to you having a relaxed and stress free week. White lies come back on you, so don't even think about telling them. You can work and play you know Cancer, as you'd discover if you'd stop dancing to others' tunes. Major cities and towns beckon to improve your career. Ring now for more on life and love.

0906 585 4363

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22

If you can't get perfection then aim for progress. You'll still be heading in the right direction. Someone is destined to let you down so have a back up plan if there is something important you were hoping to do over the coming days. Contracts and signatures bring you closer to a better career. Ring now to hear why you can look forward to an exciting break soon.

0906 585 4364

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

Yours is the role of supporter in the coming days. It's the perfect way to ensure that you prove how much you've grown up since last year's dramas. Money spent on the home may feel like a waste, but is in fact a great investment in your long term future. Some sort of training will be discussed to help you improve your career. Embrace it. Ring me. There is plenty for us to discuss.

0906 585 4365

LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

You end this month with the knowledge that you did the best you could in a relationship where the person concerned did not want to help themselves, let alone you. Move on and acknowledge how big the world is and how many more positive influences there are out there for you. Conversations you have one on one this week prove this fact. Ring now to hear how Saturn improves future work options.

0906 585 4366

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

Everything you do this week makes a difference, so think before you speak or act please dear Scorpio. News of ways you can improve your career could see you spending more time on your work and will most definitely help you to realise you can earn more money. You're not called the second most psychic sign in the zodiac for nothing. Act from the heart. Ring now for more on this powerful week.

0906 585 4367

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

Your stars encourage you to play games in love and in the process you could end up being responsible for breaking someone's heart or damaging their emotions. Take time out to think about the damage you're doing. Besides, wouldn't your time be better spent with someone you want to spend your long term future with? Give me a ring to hear why this is a great week to commit to contracts.

0906 585 4368

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

If you want to succeed in life then you need to throw yourself into what you are doing whole-heartedly. To do things with doubt and fear will only be setting you up for failure. I know you can do what you want with your life and with the power of positive thinking you can enter April with an offer which will change your life forever. Ring now to hear why it's worth replying to all texts.

0906 585 4369

AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

You have to stop trying to control those close to you and give them the freedom to choose. Only then Aquarius, will you feel content and confident to know that your union can have the longevity you desire. Travel plans are upcoming and it's worth saving any spare money rather than just wasting it. You'll thank me when you see what opportunities are ahead. Call me, we need to talk now!

0906 585 4370

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 20

You're entering a really important period of transformation and with three eclipses in April you'd better fasten your seat belt, as it's going to be a bumpy but very exciting ride. This is a time for personal development, so try to spend a bit of time this week deciding what kind of person you want to be. To have these guidelines in place can ensure you come out smiling. Ring now for support.

0906 585 4371

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Action-packed sequel for a cartoon character

CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE WINTER SOLDIER (12A, 136 mins) Action/Sci-Fi/Adventure/Fantasy. Chris Evans, Scarlett Johansson, Anthony Mackie, Robert Redford, Sebastian Stan, Samuel L Jackson, Cobie Smulders. Directors: Anthony Russo, Joe Russo.

Past and present collide in Anthony and Joe Russo's action-packed sequel to the 2011 blockbuster, which continues to expand the sprawling Marvel Comics universe.

Addressing timely concerns about unrest in the Middle East and the corruptibility of the political establishment, *Captain America: The Winter Soldier* is a bombastic, big-budget extravaganza that's every bit as entertaining as the opening chapter.

Screenwriters Christopher Markus and Stephen McFeely are duty bound to deliver a miasma of explosive thrills, and they don't disappoint.

A crunching car chase involving S.H.I.E.L.D. director Nick Fury (Samuel L Jackson) is edge-of-the-seat stuff and a climactic showdown involving the titular hero and diabolical Hydra lets loose the special effects wizards.

Amidst the death and destruction, Markus and McFeely flesh out characters and back stories, fanning an air of fear and paranoia that harks back to Cold War thrillers of a bygone military age.

The canny casting of Robert Redford in a meaty supporting role conjures fond memories of *Three Days Of The Condor*, which also explored skulduggery within the corridors of power. Set two years after *The Avengers, The Winter Soldier* opens with Steve Rogers (Chris Evans) acclimatising to life in present day Washington D.C.

In his heroic guise as Captain America, he leads a daring rescue mission at sea, flanked by sexy spy Natasha Romanoff (Scarlett Johansson) and S.H.I.E.L.D.'s counter-terrorism unit.

Soon after, Nick Fury escorts Rogers into the bowels of the agency's headquarters, which houses three state-of-the-art heli-carriers. These aerial warships, codenamed Project Insight, will extinguish threats to global peace from the skies, killing terrorists before they have a chance to strike.

"I thought the punishment usually came after the crime," observes Rogers.

"We can't afford to wait that long," retorts Fury coldly.

Alexander Pierce (Redford), a senior member of S.H.I.E.L.D. and the World Security Council, echoes Fury's grave concerns.

"To build a better world, sometimes you've got to tear the old one down," he warns Rogers, who seems to be the person concerned about the moral implications of playing judge, jury and executioner with the push of a button.

Captain America: The Winter Soldier is cut from the same tried and tested cloth as the first instalment.

Evans and Johansson enjoy verbal jousting in between their fight sequences, while Anthony Mackie proves a likeable addition to the team as winged warrior Falcon, who looks at Captain America's superhuman efforts and quips, "I do what he does. Just slower".

There's an inescapable feeling throughout that this is an appetiser to the main course of a third film in 2016 and sure enough, the Russo brothers' picture ends with a cliff-hanger.

True fan boys and girls should stay in their seats for the obligatory extra scene during the end credits that hints at the mayhem to come in next year's *The Avengers: Age Of Ultron*.

A scene from Marvel's *Captain America: The Winter Soldier* with Captain America/ Steve Rogers (Chris Evans) and Black Widow/ Natasha Romanoff (Scarlett Johansson)

Picture: PA Photo/Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures UK/2014 Marvel

CakeWhat's on

Music

FRIDAY

St John The Baptist, Church Street, Bodicote: Acoustic music. This is a joint fundraiser between the church and BodFest'14. 7.30pm. £6. *07922 394042*.

SATURDAY

Sheldonian Theatre, The Broad, Oxford: Springtime baroque. 8pm. 8pm. £31, £23, £15 and £10. *01865 744457 and 01865 305305.*

St Mary's Church, Horse Fair, Banbury: Mozart's Coronation Mass and Haydn's Nelson Mass. Banbury Choral Society starts its new season with a concert that combines two popular composers within one evening. Under the baton of the society's conductor, Julian Harris, the choir will be joined once again by soprano Helen Neeves, supported by alto, Lorna Perry; tenor, Mark Bradbury and bass, Dan Jordan. The Oxford Sinfonia will accompany the singers. 7.30pm. Tickets from One Man Band in Banbury, and Banbury Tourist Information Centre. £12.50, under-12s free accompanied by an adult.

SUNDAY

Jacqueline du Pré Music Building, St Hilda's College, Cowley Place, Oxford: Jazz All Stars. A family-friendly daytime jazz show with vocalist Natalie Williams. 11am. £5, adult £7. £20 family (max 4 people). Call. *01865 305305 and 01865 812150.*

Theatre

Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury: Apr 5, Dark Side of the Wall. Tribute to Pink Floyd. £14, concession £12. 8pm. Standing event.

Apr 6, *Cinderella*. Vienna Festival Ballet. 2pm and 5pm. £20, £18.50 concession, under-16s £15.

Apr 7, The Fureys and Davey Arthur. 8pm. £19.

Apr 8, film screening, *Jack The Giant Slayer*, 12A. 7.30pm. £6, under-16 £4.

Apr 9, *Jungle Book*, presented by Image Musical Theatre. 2pm. £7, family £23.

Box office: *01295 279002*.

The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton:

Apr 3-5, *The Pyjama Game*. Chipping Norton Amateur Operatic Society returns to West End musicals with this production, based on the novel *71/2 Cents* by Richard Bissell and George Abbott, with music and lyrics by Richard Adler and Jerry Ros. £14, concessions £12. 7.30pm, matinee Sat 2.30pm.

Apr 8, Peatbog Faeries. Hailing from the Isle of Skye, the Peatbog Faeries are the trailblazers of the Celtic Dance Music renaissance. 7.45pm. £17.

Apr 9, *Emily – The Making of a Militant Suffragette*. The story of Emily Wilding Davidson, who died under a Derby horse in 1913, campaigning for what she believed in. £14, Concessions £12. 7.45pm. Box office: *01608 642350*.

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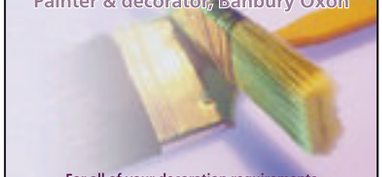

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NEWSQUEST Oxfordshire

Peugeot springs into 4x4 action

By David Duffy

IT was a typical nasty winter evening – blustery, cold, and wet with rain threatening to turn to hail at any second. Perfect conditions for Peugeot's 2008.

Because above all else this little car loves a challenge and it has the looks to prove it.

It is, without doubt, a Marmite model. Some people will love its mix of urban styling and go-anywhere ability, others will probably think it is a bit schizophrenic and daft.

What you cannot argue with is that it is a bold move from the French carmaker, which is continuing to surprise with its increasingly confident and varied range.

The 2008 Crossover aims to build on the success of the larger 3008 Crossover and you feel that sense of adventure the second you slide into the high-riding driver's seat and grip the improbably small steering wheel.

Ahead of you is a range of modern instrumentation and a seven-inch touchscreen that 'floats' above the dashboard, allowing you to control everything from radio and satellite navigation to the radar-controlled automatic parking system.

The fact that it is fitted with electronics specifically to help you park speaks volumes about where this car is likely to spend most of its time.

Like city folk who walk around town in wellingtons, the 2008 is clearly designed for city drivers who want to exhibit a little rural cool.

So you get a sculpted bonnet, a roof with curves inspired by Peugeot's dramatic RCZ coupé complete with spoiler and roof bars and a wide tailgate framed by lamps that house three luminous LED 'claws'.

The light show continues inside with two blue LED strip lights that stretch the entire length of the panoramic sunroof, which runs the length of the car.

Easy to manoeuvre, with a punchy diesel engine, the test model proved a quiet, economical and versatile runabout.

Beside the driver is an aircraft-type handbrake and a 'grip control' dial, which allows you to make the most of the 2008's increased ground clearance and its 'mud and snow' tyres. With five modes available, the car runs normally in standard mode. A flick of the dial allows you to select the best grip for snow; mud and wet grass or sand or, if you are feeling confident, an ESP Off setting which leaves you completely free of electronic interference.

All versions of the 2008 are fitted as standard with a battery of active safety systems from anti-skid and stability control to emergency braking assistance, and six airbags.

Perhaps just as importantly, the 2008 displays a growing confidence from Peugeot, as a carmaker ready to take a chance with out-of-the-ordinary designs and build cars with more than a dash of personality.

BOLD LOOKS: The 2008 mixes urban style with extra traction

Auto facts

Model: Peugeot 2008 Feline 1.6 e-HDi 92
Price: £18,645
Insurance group: 17E
Fuel consumption (Combined): 70.6mpg
Top speed: 113mph
Length: 415.9cm/164in
Width: 200.4cm/79in
Luggage capacity: 12.7 cu ft
Fuel tank capacity: 11 gallons/50 litres
CO_2 emissions: 103g/km
Warranty: 3 years/60,000 miles

Wheelsanddeals

- VAUXHALL is about to replace 1.6-litre petrol engines with a clever new 1.0-litre alternative. The tiny newcomer has only three cylinders, but thanks to a turbocharger it coughs up more power and torque than many normal 1.6-litre equivalents. It's set to debut in Vauxhall's funky Adam supermini, although the new engine will be display-only when it emerges at the Geneva Motor Show this month. Vauxhall is claiming efficiency figures of 99g/km and up to 62mpg.
- **ITALIAN car maker Alfa Romeo's revised Giulietta is now on sale, with minor styling upgrades plus a more frugal and green engine line-up. First launched in the UK in 2010, the 2014 Giulietta boasts a new front grille design, revised front foglight bezels, new alloy wheel designs and new exterior colours. The car's cabin includes a large colour touchscreen, bluetooth connectivity and DAB radio features. Prices start at £18,235.**

Motortalentsearch

Students offered £7,500 contest package

AUTOCAR and Courland International are shouting out to university students to enter the 2014 Autocar-Courland Next Generation Award, the automotive industry talent search that is regarded as the premier competition of its type. Students from all courses are encouraged to enter.

The 2014 winner will be rewarded with a £7,500 paid work experience package, comprising one month at each of the contest sponsors: Jaguar Land Rover, McLaren Automotive, Peugeot, Skoda and Toyota.

Head judge and *Autocar* editor-in-chief, Steve Cropley, said: "The UK automotive sector is seeing incredible growth and success and now is a great time to join the industry.

"The future is just as important as the present; fresh talent with new ideas is crucial to the continuous evolvement and achievement of the industry and, as such, it welcomes new and original concepts."

The winner of the 2012 competition, Roberto Pace, now works at McLaren Automotive and 2013 winner Jake Larsson is on work experience at Skoda.

The contest was launched in 2009 to offer students a unique chance to launch their automotive industry career and is run by *Autocar*, in partnership with Courland International and the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

To enter the competition, students need to answer, in 500 words, a brief set by Steve Cropley and submit their entry via the Autocar-Courland Next Generation Award website – autocar.co.uk/nextgeneration award – by September 1, 2014.

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- **RF (Radio Frequency) Mono polar (Body Skin Tightening)**
- **Bipolar (Facial Skin Tightening / Wrinkle Removal)**

Whether you are looking for instant inch loss for a special day or wanting to change the way you look from head to toe with accelerated help, combined with fitness and new diet let us sculpt your body by melting away those problem fatty areas reducing cellulite and smoothing out unwanted wrinkles for a newer younger looking you!

FOR ONE WEEK ONLY

Free consultation with free 30 minutes laser lipo session

*Terms & Conditions apply. On production of this advert
Not to be used in conjection with any other offer

- Laser Lipolysis
- Ultrasound Cavitation
- RF Mono polar Body Skin Tightening
- RF Bipolar Face lifting and Wrinkle removal

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